

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

named. Considering, then, that it was necessary for you to be a virile man, and without any fear, and freed from self-love (for you are put by God in an office that demands no fear save that which is holy) ; therefore, I said to you that I desired to see you manful and not timorous. I hope in the Divine Goodness that He will grant grace to you and to me, that is, to fulfil His will and your desire and mine. Peace, peace, peace ! Dearest father, make the Holy Father consider the loss of souls more than that of cities ; for God demands souls more than cities." <sup>1</sup>

A man of a very different stamp from that of this greathearted and zealous Cardinal was the other director of the papal policy in Italy. Gerard du Puy, Abbot of Marmoutier and nephew to Pope Gregory, was one of the worst of those rapacious wolves in sheep's clothing to whom the pastors of Avignon had entrusted their Ausonian flocks. While d'Estaing in his Bolognese legation was vigorously pursuing the campaign against the Visconti, without oppressing the subjects of the Church committed to his rule, the Abbot, supported by Hawkwood's mercenaries, was governing Perugia with the most detestable tyranny. To secure his hold upon the turbulent city, he was building two great fortresses, connected by a large covered way supported by arches, over which troops could pass to and fro. He ground down the people with taxes, excluded all the citizens, high and low, from his counsels, and ruled the province with corrupt notaries and foreign captains. He connived at the most outrageous licence of his officials, in which a nephew of his own was the worst offender, and to the protests of the injured parties returned an answer disgusting in its brutal cynicism.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, this detestable monk had been the intermediary between the Pope and Birgitta, and now, probably immediately after the latter's death in July, 1373, he was bidden approach Catherine in the same way ; his papal uncle, unabashed by the rebuke of the Swedish prophetess,

<sup>1</sup> Letter u (24). Cf. Petrarca's canzone, *tefo mia* : "I' vo gridando : Pace, pace, pace."

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Pellini, I. pp. mi, 1112 ; Supplement to Graziani, pp. 217-219 ; Montemarte, I. p. 41 • *Chronicon Regeitse (Rer. It. Script., xviii.)*, col. 85.